

PYTHIAN VETERANS.

OWN YOUR LODGE HOME.

Nine Thousand Pythians Fighting For Liberty and Their Country.

Among the 2,000 odd Canadians at present fighting for the white man's liberty and their Empire in South Africa, there are many Knights of Pythias. Might not a similar move be started in Canada to the one indicated by the following suggestion which has taken a strong hold in Pythian circles across the border?

A plan is now on foot which, it is hoped, will meet the approbation of the entire Pythian membership of America, and by which the fraternal ties of a certain portion of the membership will be materially strengthened. During the Spanish-American war there were more than 9,000 members of the Knights of Pythias wearing the United States blue, marching and undergoing hardships at the front. It is now proposed to organize a Pythian Veteran Association to be made up of the members of the Order who served in the regular or volunteer ranks during this war, and it is suggested that at the biennial encampment and convention will be held in August next, this would be an opportune time for bringing these veterans together for formal organization.

The general committee in Detroit is at work arranging the local plans and expenses so that it will be possible to carry out the project successfully, and if the Pythians interested will join with the committee in suggesting the details of the plan, there can be added to the regular convention a feature which will not only increase the interest in the assembling of Pythians, but will allow the veterans to make their first meeting a big success. The Detroit Military bodies will assist in the entertainment of the military visitors. There can be a big campfire, in which all civic and military bodies in Detroit will assist.

It is intended to make the programme of the reunion of veterans such that it will in no way interfere with the regular work of the encampment or convention, but it is believed that no effort should be spared to make this the greatest gathering of loyal Pythians ever seen on any soil.

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HIGH HONOR TO A BROTHER KNIGHT.

Brother the Hon. Ogden H. Fethers, Supreme Vice-Chancellor, has been appointed by Bro. President McKinley, to represent the United States at the Paris Exposition. We congratulate Bro. President McKinley on his happy choice, and have no doubt that Bro. Fethers will efficiently perform his duties. The appointment will not in any way interfere with his presence at the Supreme Lodge Convention to be held this Summer in Detroit.

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In view of the splendid record which the Endowment Rank has made for itself, and the stability of its system, no eligible Pythian should be without life insurance. The Endowment Rank furnishes certificates to the amount of \$500, \$1,000, \$2,000, or \$3,000, thus bringing it within the limit of the income of everyone.

It should be the aim of every K. of P. Lodge to own the building in which it holds its conventions. Yet it should not seek to do so at the cost of justice toward the sick and the needy. Our duty to our brothers should be the first consideration. A lodge owning its own hall is always independent; and in this we do not mean that the ownership should be in name alone, but in fee simple and free from debt. This ownership of the lodge home has occupied the attention of the best minds of the Order from its birth, but no solution has been found other than the accumulation of lodge funds and their appropriation to that purpose. Various plans have been suggested and found insufficient to make a clear and complete transaction, without leaving a burden of debt on the lodge. A lodge may have a part of the sum necessary for the purpose and think itself financially strong to go ahead and carry the burden, but find, too late, when its funds are all involved, that a mortgage must be given to a money shark who would rejoice to close in and become the owner at half the cost of the edifice. We have one such case within gunshot of where we write—the unfortunate being a lodge of a kindred order. The prospects were of the best; the leading members men of influence and experience who were looked up to as having a full knowledge of what they had in hand. Yet reverses came; one by one several of those "leading members" died; sickness came to members; rents sufficient to carry the burden failed, and the result is, that after a "painful struggle" the lodge succumbed and a stranger now owns the building and enjoys the "usufruct."

On this subject we find in an exchange a proposition by which the entire loss of lodge houses to the Order may be obviated. It is, that when a lodge wants to build a hall, let it raise all the money it can, and then have the Grand Lodge lend to the subordinate, at a low rate of interest, a sum not exceeding fifty per cent. of the value of the completed buildings, receiving therefor, as security, a first mortgage on the same. In some jurisdictions this arrangement would encumber the Grand Lodge records with a large number of applicants. The best plan is for the lodge to raise the money in full for the building, owe no one, and enjoy the luxury of owning its own lodge home.—"The Knight."

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PAY YOUR DUES.

Everyone who enters a lodge by initiation or transfer enters into a solemn compact to obey the laws, and among the laws is that which fixes the sum or sums each shall pay for support of the lodge, and he who neglects or refuses to pay such dues when able to do so, is violating the obligations of honor. Laggards should remember this one point, at least, that they violate their most solemn obligation in thus falling in arrears and dropping from the lodge by the N. P. D. route. If they wish to leave the Order, let them pay up and withdraw or resign membership honorably.—"Knight."